

REMARKS

Claims 1-37, 40-43 and 45-63 are pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 38 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisher et al (USP 5,033,531) and as being unpatentable over Teufel (USP 3,881,937).

Claims 38 and 44 are canceled thereby rendering the rejection moot.

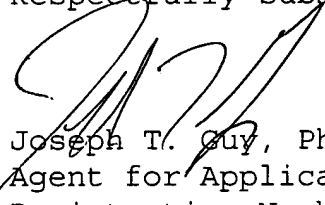
Claim Objections

Claims 42 and 43 are objected to for depending from a canceled claim. The objection has been rendered moot by amendment.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-37, 40-43 and 45-63 are pending. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



May 24, 2004

Joseph T. Guy, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicants
Registration Number 35,172
NEXSEN PRUET ADAMS KLEEMEIER, LLC
P.O. Box 10648
Greenville, SC 29603
Telephone: 864-370-2211
Facsimile: 864-282-1177